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## 2013 Was a Year of Continued Accomplishment for The City of Raleigh

The following is a recap of some of the more notable events and accomplishments of the City of Raleigh in the past 12 months.

### January



On January 2, the City Council approved the Comprehensive Pedestrian Plan. The plan provides strategies for enhancing Raleigh's transportation system by promoting walkability throughout the city.

The City Council voted 5-3 to give an additional \$75,000 to the Carolina Ballet to cover a funding shortfall. The City's Fiscal Year 2012-13 budget contains \$250,000 for the ballet.

Forbes latest report on "America's New Tech Hot Spots" ranks the Raleigh-Cary metropolitan area the fifth most sizzling in the nation. The report found that Raleigh-Cary produced 6.2 percent growth in science, technology, engineering and math related jobs over the last two years.

Richard Florida's study of metro regions and their supply of human capital found the Triangle with vast resources both in the center cities and the suburbs. The study, "Human Capital in Cities and Suburbs," found that 45.9 percent of Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill's center cities held a bachelor's degree or above. That is the nation's highest percentage. Suburban Triangle dwellers came in eighth nationally with 34.0 percent of adults with a college degree or better.

On January 15, the City Council approved the selection of RK&K to perform the design services for the Sandy Forks Road widening project.

At the same meeting, the Council approved a budget transfer of \$1.2 million for development of the proposed facility program including design alternatives, the project schedule and a cost estimate for the Downtown Remote Operations Facility. Council also authorized the City Manager to negotiate a contract amendment with Willard Firm Architects to complete construction documents and provide for construction phase services. The Council also directed the City Manager to execute a contract for the construction manager at risk for \$375,000 with Brasfield and Gorrie General Contractors to provide pre-construction services sufficient to develop a guaranteed maximum price for phase 1 of the construction.

The City Council adopted a resolution of intent to lease the Stone's Warehouse property, located at 500 and 512 East Davie Street and 419 South East Street, to the Historic Preservation Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. The foundation will enter into an option to assign the lease to Landmark Asset Services to develop the property as a 49-unit apartment complex geared towards artists and entrepreneurs with lower than area median incomes.

The City Council unanimously authorized City staff's participation in the issuance of a request for proposals for the construction, deployment and management of the proposed self-sustaining ultra-high-speed North Carolina Next Generation Network.

The Raleigh-Cary Metropolitan Statistical Area climbed to third in the 2012 Milken Institute Best Performing Cities Index. The index ranks the nation's 200 MSAs on how well they are creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth. The components include jobs, wages and salaries, and technology growth. Raleigh-Cary climbed 11 steps from 14th in 2011 to third in 2012.

The Human Life Project's national rankings of America's most family-friendly cities put Raleigh in first place.

24/7 Wall St. placed Raleigh seventh on its list of the 10 best-run cities in America. The ranking looked at the cities' credit rating, violent crime per 1,000 residents and unemployment rate.

## February



An annual study conducted by Texas A&M University found that the Triangle's commuters wasted the least amount of time in traffic among the 32 U.S. metropolitan areas between 1 million and 3 million in population. Raleigh-Durham commuters wasted about 23 hours in traffic in 2011. That is five hours less than the next best metropolitan areas, Milwaukee and New Orleans.

On February 5, the City Council approved a design services contract not to exceed \$450,000 with Stewart Cooper Newell Architects, PA for the design of Fire Station 12. The station will be built on City-owned land at the corner of Poole Road and Bus Way Drive.

In an attempt to best serve those who have sacrificed much for our country, the City Council approved a joint-venture rental, 10-unit housing proposal with CASA. The City will contribute \$400,000 to the project to house homeless veterans.

On February 18, the City Council approved the Unified Development Ordinance. The new code is designed to address development trends over the next 30 to 50 years. The effective date is September 1.

The City of Raleigh's state-of-the-art Transit Operations Center attained LEED Platinum certification.

The City Council approved a cost-sharing agreement with the North Carolina Department of Transportation for the replacement of the bridge at Trailwood Drive over Walnut Creek.

## March



The City Council voted March 5 to approve the schematic design of the two synthetic multipurpose fields to be installed at the WRAL Soccer Center. The estimated cost is \$2.5 million, with \$2.2 million coming from the City and the remainder from private contributions. (The fields were dedicated on August 18.)

Also on March 5, the City Council approved a resolution authorizing the filing of an application with the North Carolina Local Government Commission to sell up to \$275 million in Combined Enterprise System Revenue Bonds. Approximately \$75 million will be used to fund public utilities water and sanitary sewer system capital improvement projects. Approximately \$200 million will be used to refund all or a portion of the City's outstanding Series 2005 and Series 2006A Revenue Bonds with a lower interest rate.

At the same meeting, the City Council approved the schematic design for the second phase of the development of the Annie Louise Wilkerson, M.D., Nature Preserve Park.

During the evening portion of that same meeting, the City Council approved the schematic design for the Lake Johnson Center.

Forbes reported that the population of the Raleigh Metropolitan Statistical Area has expanded 47.8 percent since 2000, tops among the nation's 52 metropolitan areas with a population of more than 1 million. That is more than three times the overall 12.7 percent average growth of those metro areas.

Mayor Nancy McFarlane was joined by other Wake County mayors at a press conference to voice opposition to HB150 that would limit the use of local housing appearance standards.

The team of Clancy & Theys Construction Company and Balfour Beatty Construction was selected to be the construction manager at risk for the Critical Public Safety Facility project. The planned \$69 million facility will be constructed on a six-acre, City-owned lot at the intersection of North Raleigh Boulevard and Brentwood Road.

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On March 19, the System Integration Plan for Barwell Road Community Park was unanimously adopted by the City Council. The plan documents existing site conditions at the 54-acre site and includes a set of guidelines for interim management of the park property.

## April

Demolition began April 1, of the former AMF Bowling Alley on Capital Boulevard. The demolition marks the first step in restoring the floodplain, improving water quality and creating a new greenway between Wake Forest Road and Crabtree Boulevard.

On April 2, the City Council approved a contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff, Inc., to provide professional services for the Downtown Bus Facilities Master Plan. The project has two phases, one associated with the Union Station Multi-Modal Facility and the second for improvements to the Moore Square Transit Station.

The City Council approved a contract with Martin/Alexiou/Bryson, P.C. for engineering and design services for the installation of up to 50 miles of bicycle infrastructure improvements. The contract is for \$325,000.

A survey of nearly 8,000 small businesses throughout the nation rated the business climates of metro areas and found Raleigh-Durham the eighth most supportive of their objectives. The categories included: overall friendliness, ease of starting a business, ease of hiring, training and firing, tax code, licensing, environmental and zoning.

The Raleigh-Cary area came in tied for second in a Gallup poll asking residents if they “felt comfortable walking alone in their community at night.” The poll was conducted among the 50 largest metropolitan statistical areas in the nation. The Denver-Aurora, Colo., area tied with Raleigh-Cary with 78 percent of respondents replying “yes” to the question. The Minneapolis-St. Paul area took first place with 80 percent responding in the affirmative.

The City Council on April 16 unanimously approved a design services contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates for the planned conversion of Lenoir Street and South Street from one-way traffic to two-way. The contract totals \$297,883.

Also on April 16, the City Council voted unanimously to select Michael Baker Engineering, Inc., to provide design services for the planned widening of Capital Boulevard. The City is considering improvements to the section of Capital Boulevard from Spring Forest Road to Old Wake Forest Road. A traffic feasibility study will be conducted to help determine the scope of the project.

At the same meeting the City Council awarded two contracts for sanitary sewer improvements. The first contract for \$2.4 million was to Centurion Construction Company, Inc., for the Marsh Creek Interceptor Sewer Improvement project. The second contract was for professional design services with Kimley-Horn and Associates for just over \$519,000 for the Upper Walnut Creek Sewer Interceptor project.

The City Council awarded a \$1,259,600 contract to Centurion Construction Company, Inc., for the construction of the Mordecai Interpretive Center.

The City Council unanimously adopted a utility connection fee schedule ordinance. The ordinance combines the currently charged acreage fees and capital facilities fees into one set of fees called capital facilities fees. This will simplify determining the correct utility connection fees for new construction and redevelopment project for both developers and City staff. The new fee structure was developed through the use of the Rational Nexus Test mandated by several court cases. The average increase in the combined water and sewer connection fee for a residential connection will be \$388.00

On April 17, the Raleigh City Council voted not to renew City Manager J. Russell Allen's employment contract. The City of Raleigh and area residents joined on April 20 to celebrate the restoration and grand re-opening of the John Chavis Carousel in its new location within John Chavis Memorial Park.

## May

On May 7, the City Council awarded a construction contract to Park Construction of North Carolina, Inc., for an upgrade of the sanitary sewer system along Mango Creek between the Neuse River and Hodge Road in the Town of Knightdale. The \$2.49 million project will add necessary capacity to the drainage basin to help avoid sanitary sewer overflows.

Also on May 7, the City Council awarded a \$4.18 million contract to FSC II, LLC the Fred Smith Company for the Crabtree Creek Trail east extension project. The east extension will connect with the existing trail at Milburnie Road, extend along Crabtree Creek, and ultimately join the Neuse River Trail at Anderson Point Park.

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Under terms of a contract amendment approved by the City Council on May 7, North Carolina State University will expand its on-campus use of reclaimed wastewater for irrigation and other non-potable uses. The amendment provides for the City to accept wastewater from the university's remediation system for delivery to the Centennial Campus utility plant, the Hunt Library, the Oval and other on-campus sites.

The City Council approved a low-interest loan of \$750,000 to the Downtown Housing Improvement Corporation for construction of a 48-unit development for families with low to moderate incomes. Camden Glen will consist of 12 one-bedroom apartments, 28 two-bedroom units, and eight three-bedroom units at 2904 Tryon Road.

Governor Pat McCrory and Raleigh Mayor Nancy McFarlane asked the General Assembly to set the effective date of the Dorothea Dix lease bill to next year to give the State of North Carolina and the City of Raleigh time to negotiate a new deal.

On May 21, the City Council awarded a contract not to exceed \$2.7 million to Resolute Building, Inc., for the construction of Fire Station #29 on Leesville Road.

Also on May 21, the City Council approved the purchase of 12 contiguous parcels covering 1.71 acres for economic development. The parcels on East Hargett, South Bloodworth and East Martin streets cost \$3.73 million.

At the same meeting, the City Council passed a resolution accepting a \$27.64 million loan to finance the third of five phases to increase the hydraulic capacity of the Neuse River Waste Water Treatment Plant from a maximum of 60 million gallons per day to 75 million. The loan is provided by the North Carolina Clean Water State Revolving Fund.

NerdWallet calculated the best cities for starting a small business and ranked Raleigh second best in the entire nation. The results were based on the following questions:

1. Is it easy to obtain funding?
2. How business friendly is it?
3. Is the local economy thriving?
4. Will hiring be easy?
5. How affordable is it?

Raleigh's highly educated population and low cost of living were touted for boosting it so highly in the ranking.

Raleigh-Cary is number three on Bloomberg's ranking of America's "boom towns."

About \$15.1 million of the \$60 million federal contribution will be pulled from Raleigh Union Station to pay for improvements to a rail line to Charlotte, according to North Carolina Department of Transportation officials.

On May 23, 31-year veteran Perry James was named the interim City Manager.

The Capital City's population grew by 4.8 percent during the two years from 2010 to 2012. According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2012 population estimates, the number of people who call Raleigh home totals 423,179, an increase of 19,232 people in the two-year period. The Census puts Raleigh 42nd on the list of America's largest cities.

## June

Raleigh City Council Member Eugene Weeks joined a delegation from the Raleigh Sister Cities Association on a visit to Xiangyang, China. During the 10-day trip, the delegation discussed a trilateral agreement between the City of Raleigh, the City of Asheville, Xiangyang and Osogobo, Nigeria, where the association plans to construct a hospital. The association received a \$100,000 grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for the project.

The John E. and Mary Frances Beaman House was designated a Raleigh Historic Landmark. Located at 2120 White Oak Road, the house built in 1929 is an excellent example of the Georgian Revival architecture style that was popular in and around the affluent Hayes Barton development of the 1920s.

Former Raleigh City Manager Lawrence P. Zachary died June 5. He was 91. Mr. Zachary came to the City of Raleigh in October 1968 as Assistant City Manager of Operations. He took the reins as City Manager in November 1973, serving in that capacity for a decade.

June 7-13 saw 126,000 people attend significant events in either the Raleigh Convention Center, the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts or the Red Hat Amphitheater. During that week: a dozen Wake County high schools held graduation ceremonies at the Raleigh Convention Center or the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts; the amphitheater was filled to the brim for three concerts;

all while five multi-day conventions with nearly 1,200 attendees took place in the convention center. “This is one of our favorite weeks of the year,” said Roger Krupa, the director of the Downtown events campus. “These facilities are never more alive.”

City Council voted 5 to 3 to place a \$75 million bond proposal on the fall ballot.

On June 18, the City Council unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2013-14 budget. The budget does not increase property taxes, stormwater or privilege license fees. It does include an additional \$13.9 million in revenue for the City's Public Utilities' system. The additional revenue is derived from a 14 percent sewer volumetric rate increase and a redesign of the water and sewer administrative fee to provide a portion of its capital debt service.

The budget increased support for the arts, raising the rate for funding from \$4.50 to \$5.00 per capita. The change, coupled with an increase in the City's population, resulted in an additional \$237,660 being allocated to the activities and programs administered by the City of Raleigh Arts Commission compared to the previous year.

The budget keeps alive the very proud Capital City tradition of providing the best municipal services at low costs. Municipal costs are annual property taxes, solid waste fees, water and sewer charges, and stormwater fees. Raleigh's annual average is \$1,543.94. The average annual municipal costs for the 11 other municipalities in Wake County is \$1,758.68. That is a difference of \$214.74 or more than 12 percent higher than the Raleigh annual average. The average annual municipal costs for the other Triangle municipalities outside Wake County and the state's other largest cities is \$1,751.50 or \$207.56 above Raleigh's average. That is 11.85 percent higher.

PC Construction Company received a bid of approximately \$25.6 million for the third phase of the expansion of the Neuse River Wastewater Treatment Plant.

The City Council authorized a fee of approximately \$876,000 with Kimley-Horn and Associates for design services for the Hillsborough Street Phase 2.

The City Council approved a \$749,700 contract with RK&K for design services for the Sandy Forks Road widening project.

The City Council agreed to address the growing needs for additional water resources by entering into a memorandum of agreement with the United States Army Corps of Engineers to fund a reallocation study of the water stored in the Falls Lake reservoir. The \$450,000 study will determine whether water currently allocated to the water quality storage pool at Falls Lake can be safely reallocated to the water supply storage pool. Local demand for water is projected to exceed supply by 2040.

Funding for the South Saunders Street/South Wilmington Street corridor study was approved. A total of \$150,000 was allocated for the study of Raleigh's southern gateway.

The City Council approved adding the words “cultural resources” to make the Parks and Recreation Department the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. The title change reflects the expanded scope of the department. The department's Cultural Resources Division includes the Arts Commission and the historic resources and museum areas.

The schematic design for the Southeast Raleigh Tennis Center was approved. The new state-of-the-art tennis center will be located at 3935 Barwell Road. The \$5 million project will provide approximately 20 outdoor tennis courts, the first public indoor tennis court in Raleigh, a 4,000-square-foot building and other amenities on an undeveloped site of slightly less than nine acres.

The Raleigh City Council approved the schematic design for the expansion of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Gardens. One highlight of the expanded gardens will be a Civil Rights Path with future educational stations offering visitors an opportunity to learn key details and history about the struggle for racial equality. Other new features will include a masonry screen wall with a memorial to local civil rights leaders.

The City Council updated the process used to develop traffic-calming projects. These updates are intended to improve communication about projects, speed reduction measures and improve project delivery.

The City of Raleigh Planning Department staff offered training labs on the regulations and procedures in the Unified Development Ordinance.

## July



At its July 2 meeting, the City Council approved the purchase of two contiguous parcels of land for approximately \$3.2 million. The land, approximately 40.42 acres, is located adjacent to the Dempsey E. Benton Water Treatment Plant. The land will be used as a raw water reservoir. The reservoir will enhance water quality and provide storage for at least 80 million gallons. Additionally, the reservoir could help accommodate future water supply resources.

Raleigh's 3.74 patent applications per 10,000 residents place it fifteenth on Forbes' list of the World's Most Inventive Cities.

Due to its contract relationship with the Raleigh Business and Technology Center, the City conducted an audit of the contract that brought several

financial and programmatic non-compliance issues to officials' attention. Mayor McFarlane announced that the City took the following actions to address these concerns:

- The City would not pursue a contract for fiscal year 2013-14 with the center;
- The City requested the center vacate the City-owned facility at 900 S. Wilmington St. as of July 31; and,
- The City notified tenants of the facility that they may negotiate short-term leases with the City for continuation of their current arrangements.

The City Council approved an increase in the Limited Repair Program annual budget and raised the maximum amounts for loans made under the program to Raleigh households with low incomes.

The Blount Street/Person Street Corridor Plan was approved. The corridor extends more than five miles from Capital Boulevard to Interstate 40 and includes Wake Forest and Hammond roads. It runs through industrial, residential, institutional and commercial zones. The first phase proposes road restriping that would define the two travel lanes, add bike lanes and define on-street parking. It also would convert the four-lane section of Wake Forest Road to a three-lane section with a center turn lane and add bicycle lanes. Person Street would be restored to two-way traffic.

The City Council approved a preservation plan to keep the four acres tucked away between Glenwood Avenue and Six Forks Road pristine. William and Mary Coker Joslin gave the land and home to the City of Oaks Foundation with the future purpose of it being a public garden. In return, the City of Raleigh will manage and program the property.

The City's Wilders Grove Solid Waste Services facility was honored by the Solid Waste Association of North America. The facility was built on the site of a former landfill, saving \$4 million to \$7 million. Energy consumption in the facility is reduced by more than 40 percent using renewable geothermal energy, LED lighting, solar photo-voltaic panels and a web-based building control system. Recycled building materials were incorporated throughout construction of the facility and nearly 95 percent of construction waste was diverted from landfills. The facility is LEED Platinum certified.

The City's Bicycle Program produced a map. BikeRaleigh highlights existing on-road bicycle facility, Capital Area Transit routes, the Capital Area Greenway system and popular destinations.

## August

RMF Engineering, Inc. was awarded the contract for the design and construction stages of the Critical Public Safety Facility.

"It's nice to be natural when you are naturally nice" once again has proven to be Raleigh's most fitting aphorism, for it has been rated the fifth most hospitable of America's cities by Airbnb.

The City Council accepted the recommendations from a Communications Task Force to review the City's communications efforts, and forwarded the recommendations to the City Manager for review and implementation. The recommendations are:

- Organize City communications operations to align all communication activities across the city. The recommendation included hiring a consultant to research the information needs of City residents;
- Define the City's identity to create a unique face and voice to communicate. This includes crafting and clearly defining a brand identity that supports economic development and the city's innovative culture, and designing a new logo (not a replacement for the official City Seal) that reflects 21st century Raleigh;

- Hire a social media manager to coordinate all social media outreach and to spark conversations with residents, and to act as a bullhorn for the City;
- Expand the role of the Raleigh Television Network to provide additional relevant programming for residents, such as programming focused on innovation, culture, arts and entrepreneurship; and,
- Define a crisis communication plan to guide response activities during emergencies.

With an expression of thanks, the City Council accepted the recommendation of its Passenger Rail Task Force to transfer the panel's remaining work assignment to the Planning Commission.

Throughout August, the City sought public comment on the completed study of the Western Boulevard corridor that bisects the North Carolina State University campus between Gorman Street and Ashe Avenue.

Forbes acknowledged its abiding admiration of Raleigh in mid-August in presenting the 15th annual list of the Best Places for Business and Careers. Referring to Raleigh as a perennial top finisher, Forbes placed the Capital City in third place, touting its educated residents due to the proximity of Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and North Carolina State University.

Looking for cities with below-average living costs and higher-than-average incomes, Kiplinger's placed Raleigh fifth on its top 10 most affordable cities. Raleigh's highest marks were for its housing costs – nearly 31 percent below the national average.

## September



The City Council approved a resolution authorizing the Police Department to submit a grant application to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for more than \$525,000 to fund the creation of a squad to detect and arrest impaired drivers in Raleigh.

The City Council also authorized City staff to negotiate a contract to develop a Transit Technology Feasibility Study. The goals of the study are to investigate the possibility of future fixed-guideway transit investments, identify opportunities for preservation of rights-of-way for future transit system needs, and to consider ways to improve local transit operations in the City.

The City was awarded a \$5.5 million federal transportation grant to help fund Raleigh Union Station. The additional funds move the City closer to building a passenger train station in Downtown Raleigh that will enhance connectivity and spur economic growth. The North Carolina Department of Transportation is working closely with the City of Raleigh and the Federal Railroad Administration in reviewing the project's budget status and the existing cooperative agreement with a goal of reallocating stimulus money to support the station and have it listed in the agreement as dedicated funding for Raleigh Union Station.

Raleigh was ranked eighth on United Van Lines' report of the nation's top cities to which Americans are moving.

On Sept. 27-28, Raleigh celebrated the 75th anniversary of historic John Chavis Memorial Park.

The City Council approved a budget for the contractually obligated buy back from Charter Square of the "site one" Downtown development location adjacent to City Plaza. The buy-back obligation was triggered by Charter Square's inability to meet the Sept. 20 deadline for starting construction of a planned 11-story, mixed-use building on the property. The original construction deadline of Sept. 19, 2012 was extended by the Council. The City will pay no more than \$20.275 million to reacquire the site.

The City Council authorized the interim City Manager to execute a cooperative agreement with the United States Department of Transportation to receive a \$26.5 million grant in support of Phase 1 of the Raleigh Union Station project.

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Tens of thousands of pickers and their fans were grinning throughout Downtown Raleigh the last week of September as the Capital City hosted the International Bluegrass Music Association's World of Bluegrass.

## October

The City Council voted unanimously to seek proposals for the sale and development of the Stone's Warehouse property at the intersection of East and Davie streets. In January, the council approved a 99-year lease for the property with Vann Joines/Landmark Group. The developers sought to rezone and redevelop the City-owned block to allow for a 49-unit apartment complex geared toward artists and entrepreneurs with lower than area median incomes. The project subsequently failed to win the \$4.1 million in low-income housing tax credits, prompting the City to solicit the proposals.

The Council approved a grant of \$5,000 to Innovate Raleigh, a partnership between the City and North Carolina State University, Wake County Economic Develop, the Downtown Raleigh Alliance, Wake Technical Community College, the Wake County Public School System and the Council for Entrepreneurial Development. The grant is for the annual conference that brings together those intrigued by and drawn to innovation.

While it's an inclusive city, speeders are not welcomed here. That's the message of the City of Raleigh's anti-speeding pilot campaign that launched October 1.

On October 4, the City Council announced the selection of Ruffin L. Hall as Raleigh's City Manager. A native of Fayetteville, Mr. Hall has more than 18 years experience working in local government throughout North Carolina in a variety of high profile and high quality communities including Charlotte, Durham, Chapel Hill and Wilmington.

On October 8, Raleigh voters approved the \$75 million bond referendum by a vote of 70 percent to 30 percent. The approval will increase the property tax rate per \$100 of taxation by 1.12 cents.

On October 12, volunteers planted 60 trees to mark the tenth anniversary of NeighborWoods, the City's neighborhood street-tree planting program. The occasion marked the planting of tree number 14,246.

The Arts Commission hosted internationally recognized arts consultant and researcher Alan Brown on October 17, for a presentation on building creative capital in cities and communities.

Improvements to Pineview Drive from Swift Drive to the existing curb and gutter are approved. The street improvement petition was signed by 100 percent of the adjoining property owners and assessments for the improvements will apply.

Wake County was ranked eighth among the top 25 high-tech hot spots in the country by the Progressive Policy Institute, an economics think tank. The study showed that having a strong technology/information sector allowed the area to come back strong from the recession.

The Raleigh area is the only East Coast locale to make Payscale's top 10 best cities for high-paying jobs in the United States. Raleigh was seventh on the list.

*Money* magazine named Raleigh one of the top five places in the nation to retire.

Lighten Up, Raleigh! And Get Your Shine On! is the City's bicycle and pedestrian campaign to remind citizens they have to be seen to be safe.

More than 100,000 revelers packed the Red Hat Amphitheater during the outdoor entertainment season. Twenty-nine shows were held in the Downtown venue from May 2 through October 5. That was an increase of more than 50 percent compared to 2012's attendance. The amphitheater, which holds a maximum of just under 6,000 people, hosted shows from Top 40 to R&B to Indie to Bluegrass.

## November

The City Council approved a proposal that will bring the review of applications and coordination of City support for public events to a newly created City of Raleigh Special Events Office.

The City Council created a Watershed Protection Advisory Task Force to make recommendations on watershed protection fund activities.

The City Council unanimously approved two proposed property acquisitions and funding for stewardship of a third property during its regular meeting on November 5.

Six contiguous parcels adjacent to the Neuse River Wastewater Treatment Plant, totaling 130.44 acres, will be acquired for \$1.95 million. Also approved was the donation to the City of 10 acres of wooded uplands and 1,230 linear street feet of an unnamed Little Beaverdam Creek tributary in the Saddleback Ridge area. The Triangle Greenways Council negotiated the donation of the land which is valued at \$50,000. The City will provide \$1,750 to fund the transaction costs and to assist in stewardship of the property. The final approval was \$11,000 for the planning and stewardship elements of six healthy working forest easements, totaling 668 acres located in the Falls Lake watershed. Purchase of the easement was funded by grants received from the United States Endowment for Forestry and Communities Healthy Forests for Healthy Watersheds.

The City Council unanimously approved a new bicycle ordinance on November 5. The new ordinance clarifies differences between a bicycle and motor vehicles, and defines the streets and facilities that may be used by bicyclists.

The City broke ground on November 7 for its Downtown Remote Operations Facility, located at 2556 Westinghouse Boulevard. The new facilities will free up the decades-old, over-crowded facilities on Peace and West streets.

On November 19, the City Council approved a \$169,497 contract with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. for the Lake Wheeler Road stream restoration project.

The City of Raleigh, the City of Durham and Durham County jointly acquired 134 acres to be used for watershed protection for Falls Lake and as an active-use park. Raleigh's share of the \$2.3 million acquisition was \$250,000.

## December



Ballroom A of the Raleigh Convention Center was the setting for the December 2 swearing-in ceremony for the newly elected Mayor and City Council. The ceremony marked Nancy McFarlane's second term as Mayor and the 35th Raleigh City Council under the council/manager form of government. This was the 21st City Council under the district system, with direct election of the Mayor.

Three architecturally significant houses were granted Raleigh Historic landmark designation by the City Council on December 3. They are: the 1923 one-story frame Anderson House at 1201 park Drive; the Holleman House, 311 Calvin Road, an intact example of the Sears Americas foursquare kit house that gained popularity in the early twentieth-century Raleigh suburbs; and, the 1875 two-story weather-boarded Merrimon-Wynne House at 500 N. Blount Street. This residence serves as a local example of the Italianate residential style.

In early December the City of Oaks Foundation made two announcements that bode well for Raleigh's future. The foundation presented a \$25,000 award to the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department. The award is to be used to sponsor need-based scholarships for children to participate in City-conducted summer camps and nature programs.

The foundation's second announcement was a land conservation easement agreement with Bob Kellam and Susan Wyatt that will preserve their 58-acre farm in east Raleigh as a wildlife sanctuary and center for agricultural and environmental education. The conservation easement donation is appraised at \$3.19 million.

The City Council unanimously approved a temporary food distribution facility near Moore Square to serve the needy. Following a series of community meetings that began in September, the City's Food Distribution Task Force studied alternatives to food distribution in Moore Square and unanimously determined the best option was to use a vacant warehouse as a temporary food distribution facility.

Ground was broken December 3 for the Raleigh Police Memorial – a long-standing promise made by Raleigh Police Department veterans to honor and keep the memory sacred of the officers who make the ultimate sacrifice serving Raleigh. The ceremony was held at the entrance to the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex at 222 W. Hargett St., where the memorial is being installed.

The City Council approved a \$2.1 million loan to DHIC to purchase the Washington Terrace apartments located at 1951 Booker Drive.

The replacement of the failing dam and spillway at Lower Longview Lake was approved. Completion of the project will reopen to vehicular traffic the section of Albemarle Avenue that runs across the bridge. This section has been closed to traffic since 2009 due to the deterioration of the dam. The \$2.50 million project will upgrade the capacity of the dam and spillway to meet the State of North Carolina standards.

The cost for the design of improvements to three pedestrian bridges providing access across Interstate 40 was approved by the City Council. The three bridges were selected based on pedestrian demand and funds available under a previously approved Federal Surface Transportation Program-Direct Apportionment/Planning grant. The three pedestrian bridges are: Buck Jones Road South of I-40 to Farm Gate Road; Avent Ferry Road south of Mistflower Drive to 400 feet north of I-40; and, Rock Quarry Road south of I-40 to north of I-40. The design of improvements will total more than \$1.94 million.

The City Council established the Downtown Plan Advisory Committee comprised of 22 members and five alternates. The committee will serve as advisors in support of the new Downtown Plan. A kick-off event will be held during the first three months of 2014, at which the members will be instructed in their roles in developing a strategy for further sustained improvements to Downtown Raleigh.

A contract was approved for the construction of the second phase of renovation planned for the Annie Louise Wilkerson, M.D., Nature Preserve Park. The contract for approximately \$2 million was awarded to Daniels and Daniels Construction Co., Inc. The second phase includes the renovation of Dr. Wilkerson's former home into an education center. Dr. Wilkerson gave the 157 acres in the extreme northern section of Raleigh upon her death in 2004 with the stipulation that it be maintained as a "nature preserve park" used for the primary purpose of nature and wildlife education.

Raleigh residents looking to make small improvement to their community gained a new funding option with the City's two pilot projects using a "crowd funding" model of financing. The pilot launched December 9 with the goal of raising funds for two projects solely through small donations from residents. The City partnered with the City of Oaks Foundation on both projects, with donations being requested through December 31.

The first project is the purchase, installation and maintenance of decorative bicycle racks. The second project is the purchase, installation and maintenance of benches along the most popular sections of the new, 28-mile Neuse River Greenway.

The City of Raleigh contracted with the Triangle Transit Authority in mid-December to provide additional bus service for the Zebulon-Wendell-Downtown Raleigh route and to initiate an express route from Johnston County to Downtown Raleigh. The expanded service is designed to alleviate the clogged traffic that will result from the North Carolina Department of Transportation's multi-year Fortify Raleigh project that will make necessary improvements to an 11.5-mile stretch of Interstate 40 and Interstate 440. The new services are being paid by NCDOT.

Raleigh's 7.4 percent increase in "workers in their prime" between 2007 and 2012 was the fourth largest rise in the nation, according to a study by demographer Wendell Cox. Forbes.com reported the study's findings.

## Raleigh Racks Up The Bling In '13

The following is a listing of some of the accolades that Raleigh garnered in 2013.

Forbes.com reported that Raleigh's 7.4 percent increase between 2007 and 2012 in "prime-age" workers was the fourth highest in the nation. (Prime-age workers are defined as 30 to 44.)

Money magazine named Raleigh one of the top five most desirable places in the nation to retire.

The Raleigh area was the only locale on the East Coast to make Payscale's top 10 best cities for high-paying jobs in the United States. Raleigh was seventh on the list.

Raleigh's economic momentum was ranked as the ninth strongest in the nation. The metrics used were GDP growth, job growth, real median household income and unemployment. Also measured were population growth, birth rate, domestic migration and the change in educational attainment. The analysis was done by newgeography.com and Praxis Strategy Group.

Wake County was ranked eighth among the top 25 high-tech hot spots in the country by the Progressive Policy Institute, an economics think tank.

Raleigh-Durham was included in Forbes' 10 Up and Coming Cities for Entrepreneurs. Only two other cities on the list are in the United States. Credited were the Research Triangle Park, Duke University and the University of North Carolina system.

Raleigh was ranked America's fifth most hospitable city by Airbnb, a privately held company that provides online service for individuals referred to as "hosts," generally private parties to rent unoccupied living space and other short-term lodging to guests. The company has more than 250,000 listing in more than 30,000 cities and 192 countries.

Raleigh's 3.74 patent applications per 10,000 residents placed it fifteenth on Forbes' list of the World's Most Inventive Cities.

Raleigh was ranked tenth on a list of cities deemed most prosperous for businesses. The ranking by MarketWatch, published by Dow Jones & Co., ranked Raleigh high in economic metrics, education scores and concentration of commerce.

The Raleigh-Cary area came in tied for second in a Gallup poll asking residents if they "felt comfortable walking alone in their community at night." The poll was conducted among the 50 largest metropolitan statistical areas in the nation.

A survey of nearly 8,000 small businesses throughout the nation rated the business climates of metro areas and found Raleigh-Durham the eighth most supportive. Thumbtack.com, in partnership with Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation conducted the second annual Thumbtack.com Small Business Survey. Thumbtack is an online marketplace for businesses.

Forbes reported that the population for the Raleigh metropolitan statistical area has expanded 47.8 percent since 2000, tops

among the nation's 52 metropolitan areas that have a population of more than 1 million.

An annual study conducted by Texas A&M University found that the Triangle's commuters wasted the least amount of time in traffic among the 32 U.S. metropolitan areas between 1 million and 3 million in population. Raleigh –Durham commuters wasted about 23 hours in traffic in 2011, the latest available data. That is five hours less than the next best metropolitan areas, Milwaukee and New Orleans.

The National Federation of Independent Businesses placed Raleigh second on its national list of best cities to start a business.

NerdWallet, a web-based source of financial product information, ranked Raleigh as the eighth best city in the United States for women entrepreneurs.

Richard Florida's study of metro regions and their supply of educated residents found the Triangle has vast resources both in the center cities and in the suburbs. The study, "Human Capital in Cities and Suburbs," found that 45.9 percent of residents of the centers of Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill held a bachelors degree or above. That is the highest percentage in the nation. The Triangle came in eighth nationally for the suburbs, with 34 percent having at least a college sheepskin.

Raleigh was tenth on CIO.com's ranking of Best Cities for IT Jobs for 2013. The rankings were based on internal data from Modis, a global provider of IT staffing and recruiting services, via its national regional branch network. The list factors in projected IT job opportunities based on the volume of job openings over the past six months as well as general assessment of the overall economic environment in each market.

The Raleigh-Cary Metropolitan Statistical Area climbed to third in the 2012 Milken Institute Best Performing Cities Index. The index ranked the nation's 200 MSAs on how well they were creating and sustaining jobs and economic growth. The components include jobs, wages and salaries and technology growth. Raleigh-Cary climbed 11 spots from 14th in 2011.

The Human Life Project released the results of its national rankings of America's most family-friendly cities and first place went to Raleigh. The Human Life Project promotes cities that work proactively on identifying and reversing negative trends before they become big problems and build a lasting legacy by investing in families.

Forbes placed Raleigh in the second spot in its list of "Next Biggest Boom Towns in the U.S." Having the nation's second highest overall population increase and third highest job growth rate over the past two decades, plus its ranking as the Number 1 city for families with young children earned Raleigh the spot right behind first place Austin, Texas.

In January 2013, Forbes' "America's New Tech Hot Spots" placed the Raleigh-Cary metropolitan area fifth in the nation.

24/7 Wall St. placed Raleigh seventh on its list of the 10 best run

cities in America. The ranking looked at the cities' credit rating, violent crime per 1,000 people and unemployment rate.

## **Duke Energy Center Offers Winter Delights Most Every Night**

The Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts is offering a calendar crammed with winter delights from the sublime to the absurd.

The first of many sublime experiences is offered on January 4 with the North Carolina Symphony Kids Series presenting Camille San-Saens' "Carnival of the Animals," featuring the Triangle Youth Ballet.

To conclude the month, the Top Shelf Comedy Tour offers the absurd hilarity of Gary Owen, Dominique, Bruce Bruce and Arnez J.

In addition to San-Saens, The North Carolina Symphony does its part to bring light to the heart of winter with: Beethoven's Symphony Number 5, along with Mozart's Piano Concerto Number 25 on January 10-11; "Here to Stay – A Gershwin Tribute" January 17-18. This multi-media paean to George and Ira is part of the symphony's Pop Series; the symphony's lineup also includes a special presentation featuring Hilary Hahn on January 19 performing Mozart's Violin Concerto Number 5; and January 24-25's presentation of Antonin Dvorak's 7th Symphony, Bela Bartok's "Divertimento for Strings" and Samuel Barber's Violin Concerto.

Offerings of refined culture will ring from Memorial Auditorium Jan. 24-26 with the North Carolina Opera's presentation of Giacomo Puccini's heart-wrenching opera of young love – so passionate, so tragic – "La Boheme."

Roots music commands the stage on January 10 with Mandolin Orange and January 18 with Tim O'Brien and Darrell Scott. Along with Chatham County Line, the Tarheel duo of Mandolin Orange was named Indy's Best Roots/Country Band of the Year in 2012. CMT Edge classified the lead tract of the duo's most recent CD, "House of Stone" as "a fire and brimstone lullaby." Tim O'Brien and Darrell Scott met 15 years ago at a picking party thrown by Sam Bush and have been playing and musically growing together ever since. Their latest CD, "We're Usually a Lot Better Than This" features original compositions as well as covers of Hank Williams, Townes Van Zandt, Lefty Frizzell, Gordon Lightfoot and Keith Whitley.

While Mandolin Orange is ladling on the Southern culture in Fletcher Opera Theater, the culture of 5,000 years of Chinese civilization will be brought to life on the stage of Memorial Auditorium. "Shen Yun Performing Arts" will present nearly 100 artists and 400 costumes January 10-11.

The next evening, January 12, a very American personality and figure of our entertainment culture will take Memorial's stage as part of Broadway Series South. "Shatner's World: We Just Live in It" is a 90-minute, one-man show in which William Shatner share insights into his life and career.

The longest-playing production of the month is "The Musical Pinkalicious." From January 22 through February 2, children can be thoroughly entertained as they learn the benefits of self-control

and being careful what you wish for (especially that “being in the pink” is not one of your wishes.) The adaptation from the book by Victoria Kann and Elizabeth Kann benefits Marbles Kids Museum. Certain to warm up the coldest month is the January 30 appearance of Queens of the Stone Age. Josh Homme and the band bring “Experience the Vampyre of Time & Memory” to Memorial’s venerable stage. It promises to push the boundaries of creative expression.

For complete information on the Duke Energy Center for the Performing Arts’ January lineup, visit [dukeenergycenterraleigh.com](http://dukeenergycenterraleigh.com).

## Forum Asks: Are We Making The Most Of Our Creeks and Streams?

The City of Raleigh continues its pondering of the near future, this time examining its creeks and streams. Carla Radoslovich Delcambre will pose the following questions at a January 15 presentation: How can our creeks, such as Pigeon House Branch and tributaries such as Little Creek that are located Downtown, be turned into amenities that encourage recreation and ecological education.

Ms. Delcambre, an assistant professor at North Carolina State University’s College of Design also will explore the impact of future development on surrounding creeks and how we can promote a healthier watershed and encourage a healthier community.

The presentation is the fifth in the City of Raleigh’s 2013/2014 Education Forum that attempts to prepare for the future by examining Raleigh’s challenges and opportunities 12 years hence. The presentations begin at noon and are held in the City of Raleigh Urban Design Center, 220 Fayetteville St. (in the City of Raleigh Museum). There is no admission charged for the 90-minute Downtown conversations.

In addition to the January 15 presentation on creeks and streams, seven other events are on the education forum docket.

## Three Rezoning Requests Set For Public Hearing On Jan. 7

The City of Raleigh will hold public hearings on Jan. 7 for three zoning requests. The hearings will be conducted at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber of the Avery Upchurch Government Complex at 222 W. Hargett Street.

The first hearing will be on a request to rezone approximately one acre of land at 8401 Ebenezer Church Road from Industrial-1 Conditional Use to IX-3 Conditional Use. The property is on the west side of Ebenezer Church Road, south of the intersection with Barefoot Industrial Road. The request would alter several existing zoning conditions on the property. It would also increase flexibility in the use of the property and its development.

The second hearing involves a request to rezone approximately 8.5 acres of land in the 5800 and 5900 blocks of Rock Quarry Road, just east of its intersection with Barwell and Pearl roads

from Residential-15 Conditional Use to RX-3. The new zoning designation would allow increased residential density development on the property.

The final request is to rezone approximately a 0.75 acre property on the former Raleigh Nehi Bottling Company plant on Hillsborough Street east of its intersection with Henderson Street from Neighborhood Business and Residential-6 to NX-3-UG Conditional Use and NX-3 Conditional Use. The rezoning would allow the plant to be repurposed into mixed-use development involving residential units and commercial office space.

## Wilkerson Nature Preserve Park To Employ Unique Wastewater Feature

Earlier this month, the Raleigh City Council approved a contract for the construction of the second phase of renovations planned for the Annie Louise Wilkerson, M.D. Nature Preserve Park. Part of the contract will pay for a wastewater/septic system that will honor the park’s goal of serving as a nature preserve.

The park is the result of a donation of 157 acres of land in February 2006. Dr. Annie Louise Wilkerson was a renowned Raleigh doctor who gave the land to the City with the stipulation that it be maintained as a “nature preserve park” used for the primary purpose of nature and wildlife education.

The Public Utilities Department is partnering with the Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department on an innovative wastewater system that produces reclaimed water and ultra-low nitrogen discharge for the Falls Lake watershed. The Public Utilities Department is funding the project using watershed protection fees.

The new system will use advanced treatment technology to minimize the nitrogen and phosphorus discharge. The wastewater treatment system uses a septic tank, recirculation tank, a recirculating splitter valve, a denitrification chamber, a phosphorus removal system, an ultraviolet disinfection, and pump tank, and a drainfield. The system also uses AdvanTex treatment pods. The filters use an engineered textile media to treat wastewater and are configured like recirculating sand filters.

“Conventional septic systems consist of two major elements: The septic tank and the drainfield where soil acts as the filter,” said Lora Greco of the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources Department. “The wastewater system at the park will incorporate an advanced treatment element between the septic tank and the drainfield that uses a combination of filtration, UV treatment, and recirculation resulting in substantially decreased level of nutrients entering the drainfield and ultimately our water.”

## Public Is Invited to Comment on Budget Priorities

The City of Raleigh is providing multiple ways for the public to comment on the budget for Fiscal Year 2014-15. To help launch the City’s budget development process, residents are asked to share their budget priorities for Raleigh. There are four ways the public can offer comments and suggestions regarding the budget:

Visit the City's website to access survey questions about the budget. Print and fill out the form and mail it by Feb. 1 to the City's Budget Office at P.O. Box, 590, Raleigh, N.C. 27602-0590. People who do not have access to the internet can call the Budget Office at 919-996-4268 to have a paper copy of the survey mailed to them. The survey's results will be shared with members of the City Council;

Visit the City's community engagement hub, MyRaleigh Ideas!, to participate in an online interactive discussion on the City's budget. Thoughts and comments generated by the discussion will be shared with members of the City Council;

Email budget comments and suggestions to Alicia Arnold. Again, feedback received will be given to the City Council; or,

Attend the City Council's pre-budget public hearing on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. in the council chamber on the second floor of the Avery C. Upchurch Government Complex, 222 W. Hargett St.

City Manager Ruffin Hall is working with City staff to draft a budget proposal that he will present to the City Council on May 20. A public hearing on the budget proposal is scheduled for June 3 at 7 p.m. The City Council must adopt a budget for the City of Raleigh no later than July 1. The City's fiscal year is from July 1 to June 30.

For more information, contact the City of Raleigh Budget and Management Services Department at 919-996-4268.

## Two More Public Information Sessions Set For Proposed Bus Route Changes

### Public Information Sessions

Capital Area Transit (CAT) will be holding information sessions on proposed bus route modifications for 2014. The route changes would build a solid foundation for future growth.

Several of CAT's main routes serving Downtown Raleigh would have additional service. Route 1-Capital Blvd and Route 15-WakeMed will see reduced headways, down to 15 minutes during the mid-day.

The public is welcome to attend an information session to learn more about the proposed route changes and provide feedback.

The same information on the proposed route changes will be presented at each of the information sessions. No formal presentations will be made at the sessions. Public comments will be used to finalize the plan to reflect community goals and priorities.

People who are unable to attend any of the information sessions may view the 2014 proposed modifications at [www.raleighnc.gov/transit](http://www.raleighnc.gov/transit) and submit comments online.

The public information session dates, times and locations are listed below.

When	Location
Jan 07, 2014 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	North Hills CAT bus stop behind North State Bank 4270 The Circle Raleigh, NC 27609
Jan 08, 2013 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm	Transit Station at Crabtree Valley Mall 4325 Glenwood Ave Raleigh, NC 27612

For more information, contact Carmalee Scarpitti, Transit Planner, at 919-996-2291.

## Follow the City of Raleigh on Twitter



Looking for the most up-to-date information from the City of Raleigh? Follow your local government via Twitter! Twitter is a free services that allows you to "follow" people or subjects via short, frequent updates. The City of Raleigh now offers Twitter users the opportunity to stay informed about the latest news and breaking events. Currently, the City maintains the following accounts:

**RaleighGov** - This feed features links to any news releases and alerts issued by the City of Raleigh;

**RaleighBPAC** - This feed features information from the City of Raleigh Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission;

**RaleighParks** - This feed features news and information related to the City of Raleigh Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department;

**RaleighPlanning** - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Planning and Development Department;

**RalCommServices** - This feed features any news and information related to the City of Raleigh Community Services Department;

**RW911** - This feed features traffic accidents reported to the Emergency Communications Center;

**RaleighGoGreen** - This feed features news and information from the City of Raleigh Solid Waste Services Department Recycling program.

**RalPublicArt** - This feed features information about the City of Raleigh Arts Commission Public Art Program.

To follow any of these, simply choose "Find People" from your Twitter home page and type in the account name you are interested in and then click "follow." It's that easy.

## Follow the City of Raleigh on Facebook



**City of Raleigh** - The main City of Raleigh Facebook page keeps you informed about events, holidays and other news items.

City of Raleigh Planning and Development - The Raleigh Planning and Development page provides guidance for the growth, preservation and development of the City of Raleigh in order to maintain a community of lasting value.

City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department - Keep with news and information from the City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department.

Community Services Department - The Community Services Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagement and other 911 related happenings.

Raleigh Police Department -The Raleigh Police Department Facebook page focuses on public safety. Posts concerning crime alerts, missing people, requests for citizen assistance and more.

Raleigh Public Art - Raleigh Arts Commission's Public Art program is an essential building block for the creation of engaging, imaginative spaces throughout the city. Department Facebook page posts a variety of community and neighborhood news, stories, awards, classes and Citizen Advisory Council information.

Emergency Communications - The Raleigh-Wake County 911 Facebook page posts information on job openings, public engagement and other 911 related happenings.

Raleigh Police Department -The Raleigh Police Department Facebook page focuses on public safety. Posts concerning crime alerts, missing people, requests for citizen assistance and more. Raleigh Public Art - Raleigh Arts Commission's Public Art program is an essential building block for the creation of engaging, imaginative spaces throughout the city.

## Traffic Alerts

For more City of Raleigh News and Updates on Road Closures, Parades and Road Races, visit the City's website at [www.raleighnc.gov](http://www.raleighnc.gov).

## Street Closings

### First Friday Closings

On First Friday of each month, from 6 p.m. to midnight, the 00 block of Hargett Street between Fayetteville Street and Wilmington Street will be closed. This closure will also include the south side sidewalk of the block.

### Center Road to Close for Water Line Replacement Starting Jan. 6

The City of Raleigh will close Center Road to complete a water line replacement project. The work will be done in two phases. Phase I begins at 8 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 6, on Center Road from East

Whitaker Mill Road to Georgetown Road. This phase is expected to be complete on Saturday, Jan. 11. Beginning Monday, Jan. 13, the project will continue to Phase II along Center Road from Georgetown Road to Pershing Road. Phase II is expected to be complete on Saturday, Jan. 18.

The project may be delayed or rescheduled depending on weather conditions. Customers on Center Road should expect brief interruptions of water service but will receive notification in advance.

**January 12** Traffic will be affected downtown from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. for a road race. The group will assemble on the 100 block of E. Edenton Street. They will travel west to Hillsborough Street. They will turn right on Oberlin Road, turn left on the traffic circle, left on Pullen Road, right at the Pullen traffic circle, and turn right on Hillsborough Street where they will return to the finish line.

**January 18** Traffic will be affected between 12:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. for a march. The 200 block of W. Hargett Street will be closed at 1:30 p.m. Parking in the 200 block of W. Hargett Street will be prohibited from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. The group will assemble in Nash Square and proceed to W. Hargett Street, they will turn left on S. McDowell Street, turn left and travel north to W. Edenton Street, turn left and end at the Sacred Heart Cathedral.



Don't miss your chance to skate at Raleigh's real-ice outdoor ice rink open through Feb 1. | City Plaza on Fayetteville St.

**[www.RaleighWinterfest.com](http://www.RaleighWinterfest.com)**



Visit your City Online at  
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